CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

monitoring a production line for non-printing events; and

responsive to detecting an event, ascertaining whether an operation can be effected with an inkjet printer stationed along the production line.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said operation can comprise a memory management operation to assist the inkjet printer in its operation.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said operation can comprise selecting of one or more compression/decompression algorithms.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said operation comprises an operation in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said operation comprises one or more operations selected from a group of operations comprising printing operations in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and non-printing operations in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said operation comprises a service-related operation.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said operation comprises one or more of a spitting operation, a wiping operation and a capping operation.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said acts of monitoring and ascertaining are performed by a component embodied within said inkjet printer.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said acts of monitoring and ascertaining are performed by a component that is not embodied within said inkjet printer.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and further comprising after said act of ascertaining, printing on an intended print medium.

12. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions embodied thereon which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to:

monitor a production line for non-printing events;

responsive to detecting an event, ascertaining whether an operation can be effected with an inkjet printer stationed along the production line; and

if an operation can be effected with the inkjet printer, scheduling at least one operation.

13. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 12, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium.

14. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 12, wherein said operation can comprise a wiping operation in an event of an unexpected production line stoppage.

15. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 12, wherein said operation comprises an operation in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

16. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 12, wherein said operation comprises one or more operations selected from a group of operations comprising printing operations in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and non-printing operations in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

17. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 12, wherein said operation comprises a service-related operation.

18. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 12, wherein said operation comprises one or more of a spitting operation, a wiping operation and a capping operation.

19. A method comprising:

monitoring one or more sensors associated with a production line, at least one of the sensors being associated with a non-printing station of the production line; and

responsive to monitoring said one or more sensors, effecting an operation at a printer station that includes at least one inkjet printer.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein said operation comprises an operation in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein said operation comprises one or more operations selected from a group of operations comprising printing operations in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and non-printing operations in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein said operation comprises a service-related operation.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein said operation comprises one or more of a spitting operation, a wiping operation and a capping operation.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein said acts of monitoring and effecting are performed by a component that is not embodied within said one inkjet printer.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein said act of monitoring is performed by utilizing a hard line connection with at least one sensor.

27. The method of claim 19, wherein said act of monitoring is performed by utilizing a wireless connection with at least one sensor.

28. The method of claim 19, wherein all of said one or more sensors are associated with stations along the production line.

29. The method of claim 19, wherein said non-printing station is located upstream from the one inkjet printer.

30. The method of claim 19, wherein said non-printing station is located downstream from the one inkjet printer.

31. The method of claim 19, wherein said non-printing station comprises multiple non-printing stations.

32. The method of claim 19, wherein said non-printing station comprises multiple non-printing stations, some of which being located upstream from the one inkjet printer, others of which being located downstream from the one inkjet printer.

33. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions embodied thereon which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to:

monitor one or more sensors associated with a production line, at least one of the sensors being associated with a non-printing station of the production line; and

responsive to monitoring said one or more sensors, effect an operation at a printer station that includes at least one inkjet printer.

34. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium.

35. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said operation comprises an operation in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

36. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said operation comprises one or more operations selected from a group of operations comprising printing operations in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and non-printing operations in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

37. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said operation comprises a service-related operation.

38. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said operation comprises one or more of a spitting operation, a wiping operation and a capping operation.

39. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein all of said one or more sensors are associated with stations along the production line.

40. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said non-printing station is located upstream from the one inkjet printer.

41. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said non-printing station is located downstream from the one inkjet printer.

42. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said non-printing station comprises multiple non-printing stations.

43. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein said non-printing station comprises multiple non-printing stations, some of which being located upstream from the one inkjet printer, others of which being located downstream from the one inkjet printer.

44. A method comprising:

monitoring, with a monitoring component embodied within an inkjet printer at a production line printing station, one or more sensors associated with a production line, at least one of the sensors being associated with a non-printing station of the production line; and

responsive to monitoring said one or more sensors, effecting an operation with the inkjet printer.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium.

46. The method of claim 44, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and wherein said act of effecting is performed by at least selecting one or more printmodes.

47. The method of claim 44, wherein said operation comprises an operation in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

48. The method of claim 44, wherein said operation comprises one or more operations selected from a group of operations comprising printing operations in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and non-printing operations in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

49. The method of claim 44, wherein said operation comprises a service-related operation.

50. The method of claim 44, wherein said operation comprises one or more of a spitting operation, a wiping operation and a capping operation.

51. The method of claim 44, wherein said non-printing station is located upstream from the inkjet printer.

52. The method of claim 44, wherein said non-printing station is located downstream from the inkjet printer.

53. The method of claim 44, wherein said non-printing station comprises multiple non-printing stations.

54. The method of claim 44, wherein said non-printing station comprises multiple non-printing stations, some of which being located upstream from the inkjet printer, others of which being located downstream from the inkjet printer.

55. A method comprising:

monitoring one or more sensors associated with a production line;

determining whether an event associated with one or more of the sensors occurs;

responsive to an event occurring, ascertaining whether any service-related inkjet printer operations can be effected during a time period associated with the event; and

if one or more service-related inkjet printer operations can be effected during said time period, effecting one or more service-related inkjet printer operations during said time period.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein said event comprises a non-printing related event.

57. The method of claim 55, wherein said acts of ascertaining and effecting are performed as a function of a past operational history of the inkjet printer.

58. An inkjet printer comprising:

means for effecting inkjet printing on a print medium;

one or more computer-readable media;

one or more processors;

computer-readable instructions embodied on the one or more computer-readable media which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to:

monitor one or more sensors associated with a production line, at least one of the sensors being associated with a non-printing station of the production line; and

responsive to monitoring said one or more sensors, effect an operation at a printer station comprising said inkjet printer.

59. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium.

60. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said operation comprises an operation in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

61. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said operation comprises one or more operations selected from a group of operations comprising printing operations in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and non-printing operations.

62. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said operation comprises a service-related operation.

63. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said operation comprises one or more of a spitting operation, a wiping operation and a capping operation.

64. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein all of said one or more sensors are associated with stations along the production line.

65. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said non-printing station is located upstream from the inkjet printer.

66. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said non-printing station is located downstream from the inkjet printer.

67. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said non-printing station comprises multiple non-printing stations.

68. The inkjet printer of claim 58, wherein said non-printing station comprises multiple non-printing stations, some of which being located upstream from the inkjet printer, others of which being located downstream from the inkjet printer.

69. A system comprising:

a production line comprising:

multiple stations, at least one of which comprising a printing station having at least one inkjet printer;

multiple sensors, at least some of the individual sensors being operably associated with individual stations; and

a production line monitoring component operably associated with the production line and configured to monitor the multiple sensors and responsive to monitoring said one or more sensors, effect an operation with the inkjet printer.

70. The system of claim 69, wherein said operation comprises a printing operation in which ink is applied to an intended print medium.

71. The system of claim 69, wherein said operation comprises an operation in which ink is not applied to an intended print medium.

72. The system of claim 69, wherein said operation comprises one or more operations selected from a group of operations comprising printing operations in which ink is applied to an intended print medium and non-printing operations.

73. The system of claim 69, wherein said operation comprises a service-related operation.

74. The system of claim 69, wherein said operation comprises one or more of a spitting operation, a wiping operation and a capping operation.

75. The system of claim 69, wherein said production line monitoring component is embodied within said at least one inkjet printer.